

With the traffic problems solved, and with the necessary structural changes made, the National Visitors Center will become a monument to this forward-thinking Congress.

I would like to add these final points in favor of the Union Station site:

1. Union Station is an already established landmark in Washington;
2. From an architectural standpoint, it is recognized as a magnificent structure;
3. It commands one of the most impressive views in the city by day and by night;
4. It would seem to provide an easy flow of traffic within the building;
5. It has good proximity to the major points of interest in Washington;
6. It has sufficient interior area to provide the necessary services to visitors;
7. It has good freeway accessibility;
8. It has good rapid transit accessibility;
9. It has superior railroad accessibility;
10. Bus transportation can be brought to it; and
11. It is convenient for air transportation facilities.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you in support of H.R. 12603.

I again want to congratulate you on your forward-looking concept of this Visitor Center and appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you, Mr. Arata. That was one of the most detailed and informative statements we have had in our hearings. It has special meaning since it comes from a representative of the Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau, who has been grappling with this problem for many years.

Let me ask you this: If the legislation that is proposed should become law and the National Park Service should take over the National Visitors Center, would it not still be feasible for the Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau to provide some of the literature which would speak directly for the people in Washington in such a Center?

In other words, we would hate to lose the service of this long-established group. Have you been handling this particular problem in Washington and do you foresee in this proposal, a place for the Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau?

Mr. ARATA. I certainly do, Mr. Chairman, and as a matter of fact, we are currently providing the National Park Service at their roadside information stands, of which they have several now, with the literature that is given to those people who stop by the roadside stands and inquire about points of interest in Washington.

Mr. GRAY. So you would not only expect to keep your interest but expand upon the work you have been doing and you conceive between the National Park Service running this and the Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau.